

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 5159, AS MODIFIED

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, before moving to third reading, I ask unanimous consent to modify amendment number 5159, adopted previously, to correct an inadvertent deletion, typographical error in one of the sections.

Mr. President, this was the Stevens amendment. Inadvertently one paragraph was dropped. This corrects the typographical error.

Ms. MIKULSKI. We have no objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 5159), as modified, is as follows:

Strike section 432 and used in lieu thereof the following:

SEC. 432. CALCULATION OF DOWNPAYMENT.

Section 203(b) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1709(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(10) ALASKA AND HAWAII.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection, with respect to a mortgage originated in the State of Alaska or the State of Hawaii, involve a principal obligation not in excess of the sum of—

“(i) the amount of the mortgage insurance premium paid at the time the mortgage is insured; and

“(ii) (I) in the case of a mortgage for a property with an appraised value equal to or less than \$50,000, 98.75 percent of the appraised value of the property;

“(II) in the case of a mortgage for a property with an appraised value in excess of \$50,000 but not in excess of \$125,000, 97.65 percent of the appraised value of the property;

“(III) in the case of a mortgage for a property with an appraised value in excess of \$125,000, 97.15 percent of the appraised value of the property; or

“(IV) notwithstanding subclauses (II) and (III), in the case of a mortgage for a property with an appraised value in excess of \$50,000 that is located in an area of the State for which the average closing cost exceeds 2.10 percent of the average, for the State, of the sale price of properties located in the State for which mortgages have been executed, 97.75 percent of the appraised value of the property.

“(B) AVERAGE CLOSING COST.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘average closing cost’ means, with respect to a State, the average, for mortgages executed for properties that are located within the State, of the total amounts (as determined by the Secretary) of initial service charges, appraisal, inspection, and other fees (as the Secretary shall approve) that are paid in connection with such mortgages.”

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I think we are ready for third reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the engrossment of the amendments and third reading of the bill.

The amendments were ordered to be engrossed, and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read a third time.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass? The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from Oregon [Mr. HATFIELD] and the Senator from Alaska [Mr. MURKOWSKI] are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Oregon [Mr. HATFIELD] would vote “yea.”

Mr. FORD. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. INOUE] is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 95, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 278 Leg.]

YEAS—95

Abraham	Ford	Mack
Akaka	Frahm	McCain
Ashcroft	Frist	McConnell
Baucus	Glenn	Mikulski
Bennett	Gorton	Moseley-Braun
Biden	Graham	Moynihan
Bingaman	Gramm	Murray
Bond	Grams	Nickles
Boxer	Grassley	Nunn
Bradley	Gregg	Pell
Breaux	Harkin	Pressler
Bryan	Hatch	Pryor
Bumpers	Heflin	Reid
Burns	Helms	Robb
Byrd	Hollings	Rockefeller
Campbell	Hutchison	Roth
Chafee	Inhofe	Santorum
Coats	Jeffords	Sarbanes
Cochran	Johnston	Shelby
Cohen	Kassebaum	Simon
Conrad	Kempthorne	Simpson
Coverdell	Kennedy	Smith
Craig	Kerrey	Snowe
D'Amato	Kerry	Specter
Daschle	Kohl	Stevens
DeWine	Kyl	Thomas
Dodd	Lautenberg	Thompson
Domenici	Leahy	Thurmond
Dorgan	Levin	Warner
Exon	Lieberman	Wellstone
Faircloth	Lott	Wyden
Feinstein	Lugar	

NAYS—2

Brown Feingold

NOT VOTING—3

Hatfield Inouye Murkowski

The bill (H.R. 3666), as amended, was passed.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. FRIST. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I move that the Senate insist on its amendments and that it request a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes thereon, and that the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate.

The motion was agreed to, and the Presiding Officer appointed Mr. BOND, Mr. BURNS, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SHELBY,

Mr. BENNETT, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. HATFIELD, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. JOHNSTON, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. KERREY of Nebraska, and Mr. BYRD conferees on the part of the Senate.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I want to express my appreciation to all those who helped us through this rather long ordeal. I express a special thanks to the majority and minority leaders for enabling us to finish work on this bill tonight. There was some question whether we were going to be able to get it done tonight. I am very grateful that the arrangements were made so that we could pass it. We have a difficult conference ahead.

I can't let this time pass without saying that my ranking member, the distinguished Senator from Maryland, Senator MIKULSKI, has been an invaluable ally. In addition to representing the interests of the minority side, she has been extremely helpful in expediting and completing action on many of the matters that faced us.

We could not have done this without the work of our trusted and valuable staff. On our side, the chief clerk, Stephen Kohashi, ably assisted by Carrie Apostolou, and Julie Dammann on my staff was essential on our side. Sally Chadbourne has been terrific to work with. I am grateful for her assistance on this. Also, David Bowers and Catherine Corson helped on the minority side.

We are most grateful that this measure had such spirited involvement on so many interesting and challenging issues. It is truly remarkable.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**U.S. FOREIGN OIL CONSUMPTION:
HERE'S WEEKLY BOX SCORE**

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute reports that for the week ending August 30, the United States imported 6,700,000 barrels of oil each day, 500,000 less than the 7,200,000 imported during the same week a year ago.

Nevertheless, Americans relied on foreign oil for 51 percent of their needs last week, and there are no signs that the upward spiral will abate. Before the Persian Gulf war, the United States obtained about 45 percent of its oil supply from foreign countries. During the Arab oil embargo in the 1970's, foreign oil accounted for only 35 percent of America's oil supply.

Anybody else interested in restoring domestic production of oil by U.S. producers using American workers? Politicians had better ponder the economic